

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 EB-08 COME-00 INT-05 OES-06

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DLOS-09

TRSE-00 OMB-01 /100 W

-----141344Z 070620 /42

R 061753Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7170

INFO COMICEDEF

CINCLANT

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, IC, EEC

SUBJECT: ICELAND-EEC FISHERIES TALKS: GUNDELACH ALLEGED REMARKS

STRIKE SOUR NOTE HERE

1. GOI OFFICIALS ARE DISCLAIMING ANY KNOWLEDGE OF PLANS FOR IMPENDING VISIT TO ICELAND OF EEC FISHERIES NEGOTIATORS SUCH AS DESCRIBED BY REUTERS IN APRIL 5 DISPATCH FROM LUXEMBOURG.

2. REPORT, WHICH WAS CARRIED IN ALL MORNING PAPERS, CITED EEC COMMISSIONER GUNDELACH AS SAYING HE WOULD HEAD TEAM THAT WOULD TRY TO PERSUADE GOI TO RESUME STALLED FISHERIES TALKS. GUNDELACH REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT ICELANDERS' REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE WAS INTOLERABLE

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AND THAT GOI MUST BE MADE AWARE OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF ITS CURRENT STANCE.

3. ACTING FONMIN OLAFUR JOHANNESSON TOLD PRESS THAT HE KNEW NOTHING OF REPORTED PLANS FOR VISIT OTHER THAN FROM NEWS REPORTS. FISHERIES MINISTER MATTHIAS BJARNASON CONFIRMED ABSENCE OF ANY OFFICIAL COMMUNI-

CATION FROM EEC AND ADDED THAT WHILE HE COULD APPRECIATE COMMUNITY'S INTEREST IN RESUMING NEGOTIATIONS HE FOUND IT STRANGE THAT PROPOSAL TO DO SO SHOULD BE BROACHED THROUGH MEDIA.

4. BRITISH EMBASSY INFORMED US THAT AT APRIL 5 MEETING, EEC COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS HAD AGREED THAT EEC TEAM SHOULD VISIT REYKJAVIK IN EFFORT GET NEGOTIATIONS BACK ON TRACK FOR EEC/ICELAND FISHERIES AGREEMENT. TEAM WOULD BE LED BY GUNDELACH AND WOULD INCLUDE BRITISH MINISTER WHO WOULD BE REPRESENTING EEC PRESIDENCY. DATE AND DETAILS OF TEAM VISIT HAVE NOT YET BEEN WORKED OUT. IN ADDITION, ACCORDING TO BRITISH EMBASSY INFORMATION, BRITAIN'S REPRESENTATIVE AT COUNCIL MEETING, FRANK JUDD, TOLD JOURNALISTS THAT "EEC TEAM SHOULD IMPRESS ON ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT THE WIDER POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONTEXT IN THE ABSENCE OF AN AGREEMENT ON FISH."

5. COMMENT: WHATEVER GUNDELACH'S PLANS, HIS CAUSE HAS NOT BEEN HELPED HERE BY LATEST REMARKS (PRESUMABLY JUDD'S) ATTRIBUTED TO HIM. EVEN DISCOUNTING ANY GOI ANNOYANCE OVER BEING INFORMED OF PLANNED VISIT THROUGH PRESS, FACT THAT JUDD'S REMARKS IMPLY CONSIDERATIONS BEYOND JUST FISHERIES MATTERS IS ALREADY BEING CONSTRUED HERE AS THREAT OF COERCION WHICH ICELANDERS HAVE REPEATEDLY STRESSED THEY WOULD NOT TOLERATE. THIS MEANS GOVERNMENT WILL BE THAT MUCH MORE UNDER GUN FROM NATIONALIST/LEFTIST POLITICAL PRESSURE IF AND WHEN IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SITS DOWN AT NEGOTIATING TABLE.  
BLAKE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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